

Town Potential Site Residence Program

Cohasset, as part of the coastal area of the Department of Mental Health, may potentially become involved in a community residence program to de-institutionalize the psychiatrically disabled and mentally retarded.

According to Ted Lang,

Associate Area Director of the Coastal Area Office, the Department is seeking to de-institutionalize the mentally retarded and psychiatrically disabled clients into community residences established in the service area. These towns — Braintree, Weymouth,

Hingham, Hull, Scituate, Norwell and Cohasset — are generally the original home town of the patients. There are currently no community residences staffed or supported by the Department of Mental Health in Cohasset.

In an information-sharing meeting with Selectmen last week, Lang focused on the psychiatrically disabled adult clients presently living at Medfield State Hospital, and who are deemed ready for placement in a community residential setting.

All of these clients, Lang said, have been in an institutional setting for a year or more; the average length of stay is 10 to 15 years. However, the length of their stay is due more to the unavailability of community-based alternatives, including support programs, than it is to the severity of their disabilities, he said.

Lang stressed that these people are not unpredictable, assaultive or dangerous. The great majority of them are depressed and lethargic and lacking social and work skills. The clients chosen for community residences are to be



White Water Action

carefully screened and re-screened for their adaptability to live in a community setting.

The residents chosen for community placement will have 24 hour staffing in the residence, in addition to supervised support programs that they will attend throughout the normal work day. Weekend activities and recreation will also be planned and supervised.

Lang said the failed attempts to de-institutionalize

mental health and mental retardation services in other states were caused by a failure to plan well and provide on-going support programs in the community. He emphasized the Department's intention to provide the necessary support programs to these clients.

Lang said the great majority of community-based programs are less expensive than institutionalization, but they don't provide immediate, percept-

Supplies for the home & office

**HINGHAM
BUSINESS MACHINES**

84 North Street, Hingham

749-1801

MC & Visa accepted



*Paper
Moon*

*Comes to Cohasset
Celebrate our Opening
Thursday, August 16, 1979*

- Discount Paper Products
- Detergents
- Novelties
- Doll House Furniture

Rte. 3A

383-6124

(Formerly New Health Life Spa)

Rte. 139

826-4324

Hanover, Mass.

Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-6, Fri 9-9, Sat 9-6

Camp Harmony Hill Has 25 Year History

Camp Harmony Hill at 38 Beechwood St., a summer recreational camp for mentally retarded adults, has been operating for 25 years.

This summer the 15 adults living in the large, converted house that is also used at Halloween time for the Jaycees Haunted House, are from East and South Boston, Quincy, Dorchester, Westwood, Canton, and Medford. They represent a wide spectrum of mental illness, ranging from Downs-Syndrome to emotionally disturbed.

They come to the Camp to get out into the country and go to the park to play ball, or spend the afternoon at Sandy Beach. They also do arts and crafts, and visit puppet shows and the Music Circus. This year's staff consists of five young adults, three men and two women.

Director Kevin Gilligan explains that the staff are caretakers, not teachers or rehabilitators. "Retarded adults are very difficult to teach. We can only work with what they know," he says.

His campers are fortunate to come to Cohasset for eight weeks in the summer. Their families pay \$100/week to-

wards the cost of their stay; the rest is subsidized by the Massachusetts Special Education Association, which is supported by the Massachusetts Teachers Association. There is one visiting day per week when parents come to see their children. Some will take them out for the day. Some don't come.

The staff is dedicated and caring and each day they put in is a long one. Gilligan says that once the campers are in bed, the staff can relax. They

listen to records and talk. He finds the local townspeople "very supportive" of the Camp. Some campers are known around town since they have been coming here for ten years.

Camp Harmony Hill is, in a sense, a de-institutionalized community residence, although it is strictly a recreational, seasonal facility. It's 25 year existence, one suspects, has hardly been noticed by most people in town.

By Karin Bartow

**GET READY FOR FALL
SPEND A LITTLE
SAVE A LOT**

Men's & Womens

SHOES
BOOTS
BAGS

**30%
to
60%**

off regular retail prices



BUY NOW & SAVE

A small deposit will hold your purchase

Milton Factory Shoes

Hanover Mall Plaza
Hanover, Mass.

Hours: Daily 9:30-9:00 p.m. Hours: Daily 9:30-6:00
Sat. til 6 p.m.

564 Adams St.
Milton, Mass.

Thurs. & Fri. til 9 p.m.

**Hunt-Payton
Insurance**

1175 Ocean Street
Marshfield

Complete insurance services with personalized attention. Call 837-3800 for flood insurance and all your insurance needs.

Antiques . . . Bought, Sold and Appraised

Many years experience in all lines of antiques and collectibles. Oriental rugs, furniture, china and glass a specialty.

Attorney, bank and personal references.

Phone 383-1499 or 581-1039.

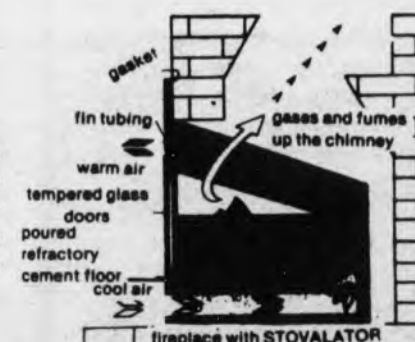
P.J. Associates

Burn 40% Less Wood - Save 22% on Heat Bill

- Made in Vermont • Installs in minutes without tools
- Patented for 30 years

How It works.

Using no electricity or mechanical device to run this heating system, the AMERICAN STOVALATOR works on the principle of the simple convection system.



SAFE • AIRTIGHT • EFFICIENT • ATTRACTIVE
Exclusive Distributor S.E. Mass.

COME SEE IT NOW AT:

Highway Motor Sales

383-6700

(Sale price is extended to Aug. 15)

Rte. 3A

Coh/Sci Line